Production of Sponge Iron

5200. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase production of sponge iron;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). In ordeer to reduce imports of steel melting scrap, Government are making efforts folr increased production of sponge in the country. From 3 lakh tonnes in 1988-89, the installed capacity for production of sponge iron has already increased to 14 lakh tonnes per annum. A number of new gas-based and coal-based plants are also under implementation.

Crime Against Foreign Tourists in Delhi

5201. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the crimes/cheating molestation; theft and insecurity of possessions and overcharging by autorickshawa etc. from the foreign tourists visiting Delhi;

(b) the number of such incidents which took place during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c). As and when any incident of crime against foreign tourists in Delhi is reported, the law enforcing agencies take suitable action in the matter. They also take appropriate measures to prevent such crimes. Toursits Police Booths have been set up and Tourist Police Vehciles have also been stationed at strategic lo cations in the capital by Delhi Police. The Department of Tourism also takes up the matter with concerned agencies as and when complaints of tourists are received.

Shortage of Postal Articles

5202. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of postal articles In rural areas of the country in genral and Maharashtra in particular;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in the country in this regard; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such shortage.

(b) Does not anse in view of reply at (a) above.

(c) Though no All India Survey has been conducted in this regard, Postal countries are kept adequately stocked on the basis of average demand.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

Upper Krishna Project

5203. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount required for the completion of Upper Krishna projects phase I and II;

(b) the amount spent so far;

(b) the amount spent so far;

(c) whether the Government of